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March 30, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents

Attn: Examiner A. Perry

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Curtis B. Hamre

OUR REF:

10873.692US01

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Title of Document Transmitted:

Amendment and Response

Applicant:

Shimada et al.

Serial No.:

09/827,393

Filed:

April 5, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2879

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S/N 09/827,393

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

SHIMADA ET AL.

Examiner:

A. PERRY

Serial No.:

09/827,393

Group Art Unit:

2879

Filed:

APRIL 5, 2001

Docket No.:

10873.692US01

Title:

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 30 2004.

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## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 MAR 3 0 2004 OFFICIAL

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this document.